

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 has been amended as follows:

As shown in Fig.1a, the drying apparatus A has a tubular insulation material 2 at the inner circumferential surface ~~outside~~ of a hopper body 1 and a heat conducting fin 5 radially projecting plural compartment walls 4 in the hopper body 1, which is hanged by ~~hangs to be supported from~~ a cover 13 with a handle 14 at the center in the hopper body 1. The heat conducting fin 5 has a penetrating path 6 in its center and the path houses therein an electric heater 3 and a temperature sensor S ~~in a penetrating path 6 at the center~~ (see Fig.1b). Carrier gas is fed from an introduction port ~~[[7]]~~ 11a provided at the upper part of the hopper body 1 and flows into ~~is communicated in~~ the penetrating path 6 through an upper inlet 6a and thereafter ~~[[to be]]~~ exhausted ~~in the hopper body 1~~ from plural lower outlets ~~exhaust ports~~ 8 provided ~~[[for]]~~ at a plug 10~~[[,]]~~ which are provided at the bottom of the hopper body 1, into the hopper body 1. The penetrating path 6, the upper inlet 6 ~~introduction port 7~~ and the lower outlets ~~exhaust ports~~ 8 constitute ~~comprise~~ a carrier gas communication path 9. The projecting plural compartment walls 4 of the heat conducting fin 5 constitute material storage space 7 between the outer surface of the heat conducting fin 5 and the inner surface of the hopper body 1. The plug 10 is provided for enabling the first-in and first-out manner of powdered or granular material contained in the hopper body 1 by its gravity. The reference numeral 3a indicates an electric wire for supplying electricity to the electric heater 3.

Page 6, first full paragraph, has been amended as follows:

The introduction port ~~[[7]]~~ 11a ~~is constructed such that~~ provided at a part of a three-way pipe 11 provided outside of the upper end of the tubular insulation material 2. On the other hand, the outside end of the three-way pipe 11 is closed and the inside end of the three-way pipe 11 is connected to a communication path 12 which communicates with the upper inlet 6a, and the other side end extending downward is opened to form the introduction port 11a where carrier gas is introduced ~~is opened, the outside end in vertical direction of the three-way pipe 11 is closed, a carrier gas is introduced from the port 11a facing downward and a communication path 12 is formed in horizontal direction into the central penetrating path 6.~~

Page 6, second full paragraph, has been amended as follows:

The carrier gas is thus externally introduced ~~[[from]]~~ through the introduction port ~~[[7]]~~ 11a, flows ~~[[in]]~~ into the horizontal path 12, and further fed into the ~~flows down in the central~~ penetrating path 6 through the upper inlet 6a, where is heated by the heater 3 and ~~[[is]]~~ then exhausted from the ~~[[port]]~~ lower outlet 8. ~~Then, the~~ The carrier gas flows upward then goes up in the hopper body 1 through the storage space 7 sectioned by ~~between~~ the plural compartment walls 4 of the heat conducting fin 5 and is exhausted to atmosphere out of the gas exhaust port 14 provided at the center of the upper cover 13 ~~into atmosphere~~.

The paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 has been amended as follows:

~~[[The]]~~ According to the present invention, the carrier gas ~~[[is]]~~ externally introduced is fed into the heat conducting fin 5 at a normal temperature, ~~[[is]]~~ and heated by the electric heater 3 in the heat conducting fin 5, ~~[[and]]~~ then is exhausted out of the lower outlets ~~[[port]]~~ 8 provided at the lower part of ~~[[under]]~~ the heat conducting fin 5. Thus the powdered or granular material is heated while the carrier gas passes upward through the hopper body 1~~[[. The]]~~ in which the electric heater 3 is feedback controlled by the temperature sensor S housed in the penetrating path 6 ~~carrier gas communication path 9~~, so that the carrier gas is heated ~~[[into]]~~ at the ~~temperature~~ substantially same temperature as that of the electric heater 3 by the electric heater 3 in addition to the heating by ~~[[and]]~~ the heat conducting fin 5 when it passes through the carrier gas communication path 9~~[[. The]]~~ and thereafter the carrier gas is discharged from the ~~[[port 8]]~~ lower outlets into the inner of the hopper body 1, thereby ~~[[and]]~~ uniformly ~~[[dries]]~~ drying the powdered or granular material stored in the material storage space 7 provided in the hopper body 1, while passing it passes upward therethrough. ~~[[The]]~~ In this embodiment, the carrier gas passes upwardly in the hopper body 1 is exhausted from the exhaust port 14 ~~upper end~~ of the hopper body 1 to atmosphere, however, it may be forcibly exhausted by means of a vacuum pump. In such a case, amount of the carrier gas is controlled ~~its passing amount~~ by the vacuum pump, thereby achieving efficient drying process.

Page 9, first last full paragraph, has been amended as follows:

According to such constructed material circulation feeder unit 20, when the resin material dried in the hopper body 1 is stopped to be fed in the molding machine, the material supply means 21 is operated to forcibly suck the dried material under the hopper body 1 and to circulate

and return the material in the hopper body 1 through the collector 22, thereby preventing a bridging phenomenon in the hopper body 1 before happens. One side of the collector 22 is connected to an exhaust pipe ~~[[25]]~~ 24a having a filter 24, so that the powder or dust are removed by means of the filter 24 and are discharged outside.

The last paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 has been amended as follows:

[[A]] As mentioned above, a drying apparatus for powdered or granular material of the present invention is comprised of a hopper body with an electric heater in its center, housing therein a heat conducting fin formed with plural compartment walls radially projected therefrom, and the heat conducting fin is formed with a carrier gas communication path for exhausting the carrier gas introduced from the upper inlet to the lower outlet through the central penetrating path ~~provided in the conducting fin, the communication path having an upper introduction port and a lower exhaust port, both connected with a penetrating up and down path provided in the center of the heat conducting fin, wherein a carrier gas is externally introduced and fed into the hopper body.~~

Page 11, first full paragraph, has been amended as follows:

The carrier gas introduced from outside through the carrier gas introduction port of the hopper body is heated substantially the same temperature as that of the heat conducting fin when the carrier gas passes through the central penetrating path of the heat conducting fin. Thus heated carrier gas heats a powdered or granular material and dries it uniformly in addition to the heat conducting fin from the heat conducting fin while the carrier gas exhausted from the ~~[[port]]~~ lower outlet moves upward from the bottom of the heat conducting fin into the hopper body and passes through the powdered or granular material.